

# Government and the Social Contract

**Federal Government Actions during the Great Depression**

# The Role of Government

Warm-Up: Americans have always struggled with balancing the role of government in the economy and society as a whole

- How involved should the government get in managing the economy and shaping society?

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, **establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty** to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”



# Historical Context

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/new-deal/resources/herbert-hoover-great-depression-and-new-deal-1931%E2%80%931933>

## The Great Depression

- Collapse of stock-market prices on the New York Stock Exchange in October 1929.
- By 1932 stocks fell to 20% of their 1929 value
- By 1933, 11,000 of the United States' 25,000 banks had failed.
- The result was drastically falling output and drastically rising unemployment;
  - By 1932, U.S. manufacturing output had fallen to 54 percent of its 1929 level
  - Unemployment had risen to between 12 and 15 million workers, or 25-30 percent of the work force.

# Historical Context

The Republican administration under President Hoover did not think the federal government should play a direct role in alleviating the effects of the depression on individual citizens or in directly managing the economy

**(Fearing Socialism and Communism)**

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- Hoover's policies were characterized as ineffective and not in keeping with the social contract
- Franklin D. Roosevelt won in 1932 on a promise to engage the resources of the federal government in his "New Deal"

**\*This decision would change the perceived role of the federal government through the present day**

# The New Deal and the CCC

## “Unemployment Relief Act of March 31, 1933 Law 73-5”

1. **Individually**
  - a. Read and Annotate text
2. **With a Partner**
  - a. Answer Comprehension Questions
3. **As a Class**
  - a. Compare this version of federal government assistance to your understanding and experience with current federal government assistance policies

# The CCC in Your Neighborhood

- The Civilian Conservation Corps
  - 18-25 year old men with no children
  - \$30/day plus meals and housing
  - Uniforms and military regimentation (operated by U.S. Army)
  - The CCC offers evening educational programs to all enrollees, and more than 90% will participate in some way.
  - Over the nine-year course of the CCC, over 40,000 illiterate men will be taught to read and write.
- The CCC in PA
  - The 2nd highest # of camps in the country (151)
  - Black Moshannon State Park

# The CCC in Your Neighborhood

- Black Moshannon State Park
- 2 Work Camps
  - Wolf Rocks S-119
  - Beaver Meadows S-71
- Construction
  - Built cabins, roads, fire towers, planted trees,





# Black Moshannon State Park



# Park Tour/Scavenger Hunt

- In groups of 3 - 4 find the following locations and snap a photo of you there to be shared on class wiki
  - Beaver Meadows Camp
  - Wolf Rocks Camp
  - Dam at Black Moshannon
  - Cabins in the park
  - Torn down Dayton Dam
  - Pavilion (near the lake)
  - Park Office (find something of interest in the history binders)

# Park Tour/Scavenger Hunt

After your tour of the park, meet back at the beach and show me the pictures on your phone in order to get credit for the day, then enjoy the park :)

**Back at Home:** Upload your photos to your OneDrive (if you don't know how to do this ask me)

**Back in School:** Compile your pictures on your group's project page on the class website along with a reflection on what role the park has played in your life. Also include an updated response to the warm - up question "How involved should the government be in managing the economy and society as a whole?"